

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

15 April 1955

Present

Members: Stanley Wilcox, State  
Richard Bauer, Army  
LTJG Richard W. Hanson, Navy

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Consultants: Elizabeth Landeau, State

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1. The 47th meeting convened at 1400 hours, and the minutes of the 46th meeting were approved with the following emendations submitted by Mr. Lacey:

a. Page 2, last paragraph, second line: delete Powell and insert Pau.

b. Page 3, paragraph 3, add: "State concurred in Army's proposal for shifting Civil Defense to the Military Report."

2. It was previously agreed by the Subcommittee that it would be desirable for Foreign Branch to list all titles of Chinese monographs received. Foreign Branch agreed to do so. The Chairman distributed to the Subcommittee members the first issue of a China Book List prepared by Foreign Branch/CIA Library.

3. The Chairman stated that CIA had proposed that FDD produce a regular index of "La Monde" similar to the currently produced index of Stamps" and requested the comments of the members.

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CIA: [REDACTED] outlined the request.

State: The Chairman stated that Mr. Lacey had telephonically endorsed the request.

Army: Mr. Bauer believes that Army might find use for the report but would not like to see it undertaken if its production would mean any detraction from the current program.

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Navy: Lt. Hanson stated that Navy would offer no objection but would not like to see it done at the expense of other parts of the program.

Mr. Wilcox stated that it would represent a considerable work effort. Laborious methods of producing information must certainly be resorted to in the Soviet Bloc but he did not think they were justified in the Western World.

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NSA: [REDACTED] stated that the proposed index would serve no useful purpose as far as NSA was concerned.

The Chairman said that since the majority seem to feel that it is not of sufficient importance to be substituted for another part of the general program, it would be better to review the matter with the requestors and see if they would like to sacrifice something in favor of the proposed index.

The Subcommittee agreed.

#### 4. Eastern Europe Program (Continued)

A discussion was entered into on the question of the Embassy press reports, their coverage, and the requirements they might satisfy.

State: Miss Landeau felt that FDD should monitor these press summaries and supplement them by reporting information not covered.

The Chairman stated that monitoring these reports would constitute a considerable amount of work and it would be better if FDD could go on a pattern in which the Division could cease reporting on certain categories.

Army: Mr. Bauer felt that FDD should scan the central press even if just to determine when to check the provincial press. The Embassy summaries do not cover military subjects the Army needs. The summaries carry so much extraneous material of no value to Army that it would not be lucrative to rely on them. The summaries are not collated, while FDD's press reporting is. Therefore, the FDD reports are much more useful. This applies to the military, economic, and political reports of FDD and they should be continued. Mr. Bauer stated that another failure of the Embassy reports was a disregard of any standards of transliteration particularly from Bulgaria.

State: Mr. Wilcox stated that Army's stand on the military report is understandable but can Army question the other categories.

Mr. Bauer stated that Army's needs from Signal, Transportation, Engineer, and Medical Corps were in the other categories and should be recognized.

Navy: Lt. Hanson stated that Navy found FDD's reports satisfactory but that Navy did not receive the Embassy reports.

CIA: [REDACTED] concurred generally with Army. He felt that the Embassy summaries do not cover commodity information while FDD does, and that the FDD reports should be continued as they are. He added that CIA was probably not getting all the Embassy summaries and he would like to know what they contain.

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NSA: [REDACTED] concurred with Army. The Embassy Polish summary, for example, is entirely unsatisfactory; there is perhaps a 10% duplication with FDD. Hungary is almost a complete duplication. She stated that although FDD reports are the most complete for NSA's needs and they can rely on them completely, NSA would be willing to have FDD omit the central press in certain areas where a complete overlap is established.

The Chairman stated that in accord with the feeling of the majority FDD should continue for the present with the current program. Meanwhile all agencies and FDD should request the Embassy press summaries and study them to determine precisely where they are satisfactory and where unsatisfactory, then FDD would proceed to bring specific proposals to the Subcommittee for changes country by country.

5. Mr. Bauer queried whether this was an appropriate time to request additional personnel for exploitation. The informative publications of Bulgaria, Poland, and Czechoslovakia are so extensive that all requirements can never be met without additional personnel. Additional information is badly needed and this wealth of it should be tapped.

The Chairman stated that he had hoped that the Subcommittee would review all of the field and learn precisely what additional work must be done in order to cover the important information now being lost. In this way we can crystallize the exact points on which we can make specific recommendations. We can include in our calculations any work now being done which can be eliminated; for example, how would the members feel about discontinuing all work on Western Europe?

The initial reaction was that it probably could be done. Mr. Bauer felt that work could probably be discontinued on Greece, Turkey, and Iran. However, all members felt they would have to study this at greater length.

6. The Chairman stated that he had had a request for meetings on a monthly schedule in lieu of the present bi-weekly meetings and queried the members as to how they felt about the period of the meetings. The majority preferred to remain on a two weeks schedule until the entire program had been reviewed.

7. The agenda for the next meeting will be the review of the Southeast Asia program.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours. The next meeting will be held on Friday, 29 April 1955 in Room 2125 M Building at 1400 hours.

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